



**United States Attorney's Office
District of Columbia**

**Jeffrey A. Taylor
United States Attorney**

PRESS RELEASE

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Second Former Law Firm Employee Sentenced in Connection with Theft of Computers from Law Firm

WASHINGTON - A 42-year-old District of Columbia man, Stephen Richardson, was sentenced today by the Honorable Richard J. Leon, U.S. District Judge for the District of Columbia, to 180 days of home detention with electronic monitoring (the costs of which are to be paid by Richardson), 36 months of probation, 360 hours of community service, and restitution of \$37,420.00. The sentence arises in connection with Richardson's earlier guilty plea to the crime of Conspiracy in connection with the theft and eBay sales of computers and computer equipment stolen from the law firm, Wiley Rein & Fielding (since renamed "Wiley Rein"), 1750 K Street, NW, Washington, D.C., U.S. Attorney Jeffrey A. Taylor and Joseph Persichini, Assistant Director in Charge of the FBI's Washington Field Office, announced today.

According to information provided to the Court in connection with the case by Assistant U.S. Attorney Sherri L. Schornstein, between approximately November 2004 and March 2005, Stephen Richardson, while working in the law firm's IT department where he had access to equipment, stole computers and computer equipment from the law firm. He provided the property to Kenneth Wicks, who worked in the mail room. Wicks sold the stolen items through eBay auctions and shipped the equipment to the successful auction bidders from the law firm using the firm's delivery service. Buyers did not know that they had purchased stolen property. In all, approximately 156 computers and monitors were stolen, with eBay sales proceeds totaling approximately \$74,420.00. The crime was uncovered when an eBay buyer attempted to have the computer warranty transferred into

his name, contacted Dell computer company directly, and was advised that the computer at issue had been leased to Wiley Rein. The buyer contacted the law firm. The law firm referred the matter to law enforcement.

The co-defendant, Kenneth Wicks, earlier pled guilty to receipt of stolen property, and was sentenced on April 9, 2009, to 3 years of incarceration with all but 6 months suspended, 180 days of home detention with electronic monitoring (the costs of which are to be paid by Wicks), 36 months of supervised release, 360 hours of community service, and restitution of \$37,420.00.

In announcing Stephenson's sentence, U.S. Attorney Taylor and Assistant Director Persichini commended the work of the Federal Bureau of Investigation Special Agents who investigated the case, and the staff of the U.S. Attorney's Office, including Legal Assistant Lisa Robinson and Assistant U.S. Attorney Sherri L. Schornstein, who prosecuted the case.

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